Executive Proclamation

State of South Dakota

Office of the Governor

Whereas, Mary Jo Johnson's dedication to teaching after graduation from the University of South Dakota in 1973, began at Menno and has continued in Pierre since 1978, where she has taught for 30 years at McKinley, Buchanan, and Georgia Morse Middle School; and,

Whereas, Mary Jo was married on July 14, 1973, to Laurence "Larry" Johnson and to this musical union two children were born: Chris and Tom, and since that time has served as a devoted wife and proud mother; and,

Whereas, Mary Jo has co-directed junior high/middle school musicals like *Scrooge, Pinocchio*, and *The Pirates of Penzance*, and also Pierre Players productions of *1776, Godspell*, and *Jesus Christ, Superstar*, and has worked with the "pit" too many times to count; and,

Whereas, Mary Jo has taught children about the wonders of music through songs and stories, boomwackers and kazoos, clarinets and tubas, and movement and sounds that filled theaters and gyms and the hearts of parents; and,

Whereas, Over the years, Mary Jo has been involved with the Dick C Land Band, South Madison Street Blues, Over Forté, Ss. Peter and Paul Folk Group, Juell Johnson Jazz Festival, Pierre Community Chorus, and is a 30-year member of the Pierre City Band; and,

Whereas, Mary Jo spent five summers at the Black Hills Playhouse working on costumes and music. She was the musical director for *Gypsy*, and traveled four summers to Europe with the Midwest Ambassadors of Music; and,

Whereas, It is fitting and proper as Governor to commend Mary Jo Johnson for 35 years of dedicated and outstanding teaching and musical service:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim March 31, 2008, as

MARY JO JOHNSON DAY

in South Dakota, and I join with her family, colleagues, and friends in wishing her a fulfilling and happy retirement.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Twenty-fourth Day of March in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Eight.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State